

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS: This Listing of the Claims replaces all previous versions of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method of transcoding dissimilar payloads carried in a first transport stream, the method comprising:

demultiplexing the first transport stream to recover first and second payloads;

determining whether a protocol associated with the second payload is dissimilar from a protocol associated with the first payload;

transcoding the second payload to ~~a~~the protocol associated with the first payload if ~~a~~the protocol associated with the second payload is determined to be dissimilar from the protocol associated with the first payload; and

multiplexing the first payload and the transcoded second payload to a second transport stream.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising associating the first payload with MPEG-2 protocols and associating the second payload with AVC protocols such that the second payload is transcoded to MPEG-2 protocols.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising associating the AVC protocols with MPEG-4 protocols.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising associating the AVC protocols with H.264 protocols.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising decrypting conditional access (CA) encryption of the first transport stream prior to demultiplexing.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising decrypting the CA encryption of the first transport stream in a settop box (STB).

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising demultiplexing, transcoding, and multiplexing the first and second payloads in a card inserted into a card slot of the STB.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising decoding copy protection of the first transport stream in the card and prior to the demultiplexing, transcoding, and multiplexing.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising encoding copy protection to the second transport stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising transmitting the copy protection encoded second transport stream from the card to the STB.

13. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising associating the first transport stream with MPEG-2 protocols.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13—~~further comprising, wherein determining if whether~~ the protocol associated with the second payload is dissimilar ~~from~~ from the protocol associated with the first payload is determined as a function of instructions associated with the MPEG-2 protocols of the first transport stream.

15. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising associating the first and second transport streams with MPEG-2 protocols.

Claims 16-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

demultiplexing a first transport stream to recover a plurality of first payloads and a plurality of second payloads therein, each of the first payloads being formatted according to a first protocol, and each of the second payloads being formatted according to a second protocol;

transcoding each of the second payloads so as to be formatted according to a protocol that depends upon the first protocol; and

multiplexing the first payloads with the transcoded second payloads into a second transport stream.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

prior to demultiplexing, encoding the first transport stream so as to be copy protected; and

after encoding and prior to demultiplexing, decoding the first transport stream so as to no longer be copy protected.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

after multiplexing, encoding the second transport stream so as to be copy protected;

after multiplexing, decoding the second transport stream so as to no longer be copy protected; and

after decoding the second transport stream, demultiplexing the second transport stream to recover the first payloads from the transcoded second payloads.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first demultiplexor configured to demultiplex a first transport stream to recover a plurality of first payloads and a plurality of second payloads therein, each of the first payloads being formatted according to a first protocol, and each of the second payloads being formatted according to a second protocol;

a transcoder configured to transcode each of the second payloads ~~so as to be formatted according to~~ in a manner that depends upon the first protocol; and

a multiplexor configured to multiplex the first payloads with the transcoded second payloads into a second transport stream.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:

a first copy protection encoder configured to encode the first transport stream so as to be copy protected; and

a first copy protection decoder configured to decode the first transport stream received from the first copy protection encoder, so as to no longer be copy protected, and to send the decoded first transport stream to the first demultiplexor.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:

a second copy protection encoder configured to encode the second transport stream, received from the multiplexor, so as to be copy protected;

a second copy protection decoder configured to decode the second transport stream received from the second copy protection encoder, so as to no longer be copy protected; and

a second demultiplexor configured to demultiplex the second transport stream received from the second copy protection decoder, to separate the first payloads from the second payloads.